

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 29, 2005 and February 8, 2006, and initial and return the PTO Form-1449 from the IDS.

Acknowledgement of Priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of the present application to Japanese Patent Application No. 328087/2002 filed on November 12, 2002.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. Specifically, the claim has been amended to recite that the distal end portion of the card is brought into *direct* contact with an inner surface of the card acceptance portions. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments as support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 1. Applicant believes the included amendments do not require a new search, or at least simplify issues for appeal, and accordingly, applicant respectfully requests entry and favorable consideration thereof.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,719,541 (“Mader”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires, in part, “each corner at the top of said moving contact plate is bent into an upper component and lower component in such a fashion as to form card acceptance portions.”

By this limitation, Applicant is claiming a structure wherein the top edge of the moving contact plate at the corners is bent into upper and lower components such that they form card acceptance portions. This allows line contact between the distal end of the card and the card acceptance portions, thus restricting the occurrence of wear dust by diffusing a sliding contact range. In contrast, Mader discloses an opening that is formed on the *side* of the moving contact plate, as opposed to the *top*.

Additionally, claim 1 requires, in part, “a distal end portion of said card is brought into direct contact with an inner surface of said card acceptance portions.”

The card accepting portions being at the top edge of the moving contact plate allows the distal end portion of the card to be brought in direct contact with the inner surface of the card accepting portions. This direct contact has been emphasized by way of the amendments above. In contrast, in Mader, the opening comes in contact with lugs 7 supported by legs 2b that extend from lateral prolongations 2a of the card 2. The distal end of the card in Mader is in contact with the legs 2b, but is clearly not in direct contact with the opening.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Mader. Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-6 are patentable over Mader,

at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 15115/095001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Application No.: 10/706,854

Docket No.: 15115/095001

Dated: March 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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